



Office of Mayor Wanda R.D. Williams
MLK Government Center
10 N. Second St.
Harrisburg, PA 17101

May 10, 2022

Dear Madam President and Harrisburg City Council:

On March 11, 2021, President Joseph R. Biden signed the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) into law. As part of ARPA, state and local governments received a significant amount of money to offset the effects of the pandemic and help communities rebuild. The City of Harrisburg received \$47,073,625, with the first half received in May of 2021 and the second half anticipated in the coming weeks.

In February of this year, city government held four town hall meetings around the city to discuss the wants and needs of our community. We listened and developed a list that we feel will help lift the City of Harrisburg out of the pandemic.

To begin the conversation, the administration would like to submit the attached request to City Council. We are requesting an appropriation of \$42.46 million dollars at this moment, broken down into the following categories:

- \$14.5 million dollars to Help Those in Need
- \$10 million dollars for Beautification, Parks and Recreation
- \$9.16 million dollars for Public Safety
- \$8.8 million dollars for Lost Revenue (currently in the 2022 budget)

This appropriation would leave approximately \$4.61 million dollars in the balance for future programming use (must be appropriated by December 31, 2024) and any expenses as it relates to the administration of these funds.

Once we collectively decide on a plan, city department heads will be available to brief City Council and the public on the progress of the programs. The Communications Bureau will work to develop a robust public communications plan to get program and benefits information out to the community. Additionally, my office will continue to be available to hear the needs and concerns of our citizens throughout the process.

Once the Law Bureau formally drafts this into legislation, I look forward to furthering our discussion and getting these funds deployed throughout the City of Harrisburg.

Sincerely,

Mayor Wanda R.D. Williams

Mayor Wanda R.D. Williams' 2022 American Recovery Act Plan (ARPA) Request

Lost Revenue (\$8.8 million)

Public Safety (\$9.16 million)

- **Public Safety Building HVAC System Replacement**, given the age and critical disrepair of the current HVAC system, and the antiquated layout and design as it relates to combating airborne illness. *\$5.5 million.*
- **Bonuses of \$5,000 for Police Officers and Fire Fighters** with the city as of 1/1/2022. *\$1.26 million.*
- **Upgraded radio system for the Fire Bureau.** With the city responding to calls outside of the city and the current aging system not fully functional in the county, this will allow us to better respond to events that happen throughout the community. *\$900 thousand.*
- **Demolition of dilapidated and abandoned houses.** The city has demolished two properties this year, with bids out for three additional properties and six more ready for demolition this year using current funding of \$139,000 from the general fund and \$51,000 from CDBG. By putting this additional money into this program, we can cut the backlog of properties currently on the list ready for demolition (42 houses) and look towards expanding the program. *\$1.5 million.*

Beautification, Parks and Recreation (\$10 million)

- **A Water Park**, with spray area, lazy river, slides, ADA-zero entry points, concession and community space designed for families, located in South Harrisburg. *\$8 million.*
- **ADA-accessible playground equipment** for children with special needs. This will allow for all children in the City to have access to playgrounds. *\$1.5 million.*
- **Tree removal and pruning** for trees that are marked for removal or pruning on private property. Parks and Recreation works will seniors and homeowners 250% the 2022 HHS poverty rate or below to target trees that pose danger to the public. *\$500 thousand.*

Helping Those in Need (\$14.5 million)

- **Affordable Housing Program** to further efforts to build affordable units in the city. This money can be used as matching funds or direct assistance to projects that meet Department of Building and Housing (DBHD) standards and approvals. ***The criteria and application process for this would be developed by DBHD. *\$8 million.*
- **\$10,000 home repairs** for homeowner-occupied units with residents 250% the 2022 HHS poverty rate or below. Payments would be directly paid to vendors on pre-approved work after the work completed is confirmed. ***The criteria and application process for this would be developed by DBHD. *\$5 million.*
- **Payment of delinquent trash utility bills** for residents 250% the 2022 HHS poverty rate or below from months between March 2020 and March 2022. *\$1 million.*
- **Grants of up to \$10,000** to small businesses affected by the pandemic. **The criteria and application process for this would be developed by DBHD. *\$500 thousand.*